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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 October 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) East Bay - Counterdrug Operation Seizes 100,000 Illegal Cannabis Plants and \$10 Million

(U) The Alameda County Sheriff's Department said Wednesday night it seized more than 100,000 marijuana plants and over \$10 million in cash, taking down what the department said was "one of the largest illegal grow operations in the state." The department said it also confiscated millions of dollars in infrastructure, including equipment, lighting, generators, and supplies used to facilitate the grows. SOURCE: 30 September 2021, San Francisco Gate

(U) San Diego – Man Sentenced to Life-in-Prison for 2019 Synagogue Shooting

(U) John T. Earnest, 22, was sentenced to life-in-prison without the possibility of parole Thursday for bursting into a San Diego synagogue on the last day of Passover in 2019 with a semiautomatic rifle, killing one worshipper and wounding three others. Earnest legally bought a semi-automatic rifle in San Diego a day before the attack, according to a federal affidavit. He entered the synagogue with 10 bullets loaded and 50 more on his vest but fled after struggling to reload.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, ABC News

(U) San Francisco – Golden Gate Bridge Protest for Pathway-to-Citizenship Stops Rush-Hour Traffic

(U) A protest early Thursday morning shut down traffic on the Northbound side of the Golden Gate Bridge. The activists who stopped traffic say they are fighting for a path to citizenship for all. CHP officers first got the call at 6:57 a.m. that several cars were driving very slowly across the bridge. The calls then stated that about a dozen cars were stopped, causing a major traffic congestion. Organizers of the protest say 40 undocumented families and allies blocked the bridge for 20-minutes to represent what they say is 20 years of broken promises by lawmakers on this issue. The CHP detained the protestors and arrested 5 people.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, ABC News

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Agents Rescue Migrant Woman Severely Injured Using Grain Hopper Railcar to Enter Texas

(U) Laredo – During the early morning of 30 September, US Border Patrol agents assigned to the Laredo South Station found the migrant woman suffering from leg injuries by the railroad tracks in south Laredo. She was later identified as a Guatemalan national, with injuries sustained while traveling with relatives on the trains. Agents quickly requested Emergency Medical Services and provided first aid while waiting for their arrival.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, CBS News

(U) Mexico – Government of Mexico Finds Body Disposal Site Near Border

(U) Nuevo Laredo – An apparently long-running "extermination site" has been found outside Mexico's northern border city of Nuevo Laredo, officials said Wednesday night. The location was discovered some weeks earlier and is being investigated within the context of dozens of reported disappearances along a

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segment of the highway connecting Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey since 2012, the National Search Commission said.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, ABC News

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Human Trafficker Sentenced for Running Illegal Migrant Hotel, Smuggling

(U) Washington – Mohamad Milon Hossain, 41, was sentenced to 46-months in prison Tuesday for participating in a scheme to smuggle undocumented individuals from Mexico and other countries into the US, according to the Justice Department. Hossain conspired with and assisted human smugglers operating out of Bangladesh, South and Central America, and Mexico to bring numerous undocumented individuals to the US border in exchange for payment. Hossain assisted in this operation from March 2017 through June 2019, the DOJ reported.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, Associated Press

(U) District of Columbia - US Kills Senior al-Qa'ida Leader in Drone Strike

(U) Washington – US Defense Department officials confirmed on Thursday that a drone strike in Syria has killed a senior al-Qa'ida leader, Salim Abu-Ahmad, in Idlib, Syria. Abu-Ahmad is responsible for planning numerous terrorist attacks throughout the region. This latest drone strike comes after one in Kabul caused the death of numerous civilians. However, US Central Command said in a statement that this strike had "no indications of civilian casualties." The body was lifted from the vehicle and was taken to an American military base, where it was later identified as Abu-Ahmad.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, Just the News

(U) New York - Ex-Uber Driver Attempted to Join the Taliban and 'Kill Americans'

(U) New York City – Delowar Mohammed Hossain, 36, was arrested at JFK Airport in 2019 on his way to Afghanistan was planning to join the Taliban and 'kill Americans' according to prosecutors. Hossain now faces terrorism charges for 'attempting to provide material support for acts of terrorism' over his alleged plot to join the extremist group in Afghanistan and could be handed decades in prison if convicted. Hossain allegedly planned to go from Thailand to Afghanistan and he had already bought supplies to survive in the country.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, Daily Mail

(U) Texas - Lockdowns Lifted at Schools Following Bomb Threat

(U) Tomball – Police issued an all-clear for two Tomball ISD schools that were placed on lockdown after one of them was reportedly threatened with a bomb. According to police, Tomball High School received an anonymous bomb threat Thursday morning, prompting the campus to be placed on the precautionary measure. Police told media that K9 units were inside the high school, checking bathrooms and the front parking lot due to the threat specifically mentioning those areas. At some point during the investigation, Tomball Police Department had to address social media rumors, saying on its Facebook page that "a device has not been found."

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, ABC News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Saudi Arabia – Almost All Saudi Firms Attribute Cyberattacks to Pandemic-Related Vulnerabilities

(U) Riyadh – 86% of organizations in Saudi Arabia have suffered a business impacting cyberattack attributed to vulnerabilities in technology put in place during the pandemic, according to a study of

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more than 1,300 security leaders, business executives, and remote employees, including 104 in Saudi Arabia. The pandemic accelerated remote work for many Saudi organizations. In fact, 91% of organizations now have remote employees, up from just 34% in early 2020. Moving forward, most organizations (91%) plan to permanently adopt remote work.

SOURCE: 30 September 2021, ITP News

(U) United Kingdom – British Payroll Firm Suffers Cyberattack

(U) London – Giant Group, a British payroll company, has allegedly been struck by a sophisticated cyberattack that has shut down its entire network and left some contractors without pay. The company confirmed on 24 September that it had taken its network and fully integrated IT infrastructure offline after detecting suspicious activity. On 27 September, the company released a statement regarding the attack, stating that they were the victims of a cyberattack on 22 September that forced it to take its systems offline. The company stated that they were working with a team of experts to investigate the attack.

SOURCE: 1 October 2021, Oodaloop

(U) United Kingdom – British ISIS Suspect Had Nearly €50,000 in Bitcoin When Arrested

(U) London – Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, 31, who performed as Lyricist Jinn, described by police as one of Europe's most wanted Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) foreign terrorist fighters was arrested when he was living in a flat with a terrace, a sauna, and nearly €50,000 in bitcoin, according to newly released court papers. Bary travelled to the Middle East in 2013 then returned to Europe, where police suspect he was planning to lead an attack.

SOURCE: 1 October 2021, Newsbreak

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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